

HOUSE No. 1612

By Mr. Scaccia of Boston, petition of Angelo M. Scaccia relative to services for persons with mental illness living with elderly family members or primary caretakers. Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS WHO
ARE LIVING WITH OLDER FAMILY MEMBERS OR PRIMARY CARETAKERS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 19 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
2 after section 21 the following new section:—

3 Section 22. The department shall provide the option of residen-
4 tial and day services to all individuals who meet the department's
5 eligibility criteria and who are living in the community with a
6 family member or other primary caretaker, when said family
7 member or primary caretaker reaches the age of 65, or extenuating
8 medical or other circumstances create either stresses to the parent
9 or caretaker to an unreasonable degree or an environment that is
10 unsafe or detrimental to either to caregiver or the person with
11 mental illness.

12 Nothing in this section shall be construed so as to eliminate or
13 reduce services to any other segment of the population which the
14 department serves.